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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

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TUBES HELP PROTECT GRAPES FROM ROT, CONSUMERS FROM SULFITE RESIDUES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3—Slender glass tubes resembling small thermometers are helping protect fresh grapes from rot and consumers from sulfite residues, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist has reported.

“Packinghouse managers can use the tubes to fine-tune doses of sulfur dioxide, a gas that shields stored grapes from a common gray mold called botrytis,” said Joseph L. Smilanick of USDA’s Agricultural Research Service. Tubes are packed with silica beads that change color to identify sulfur dioxide levels, he said.

“The tubes make it easier, cheaper and faster to find out how much gas reaches hundreds of boxes of fruit when they’re stacked floor-to-ceiling in cold storage rooms,” said Smilanick. “And this precise monitoring helps prevent buildup of unwanted sulfite residues, a by-product of sulfur dioxide.”

Because some consumers are allergic to sulfites, Federal law stipulates that sulfite residues on fresh grapes cannot exceed 10 parts per million. Managers of about 30 percent of the cold storage houses in California are now using the devices, called dosimeter tubes, to monitor stored grapes, said Smilanick. He is at the ARS Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory, Fresno, Calif.

California produces 97 percent of the nation’s “table” or fresh-market grapes like Thompson Seedless or Flame Seedless, he said. Some of those grapes may spend from a few days to a few months in cold storage before they’re shipped to supermarkets nationwide.

Stored grapes are usually fumigated about once a week for about half an hour, to fend off botrytis. Otherwise, the mold would flourish in the cool storerooms, and fresh grapes could be stored for only about three weeks before succumbing to the rot. “Fumigation is one of the reasons you can buy late-summer California grapes in December,” he said.

Tubes placed in boxes throughout the cold storage rooms help track the fumigant. At about \$4 each, the devices are “cheaper than instruments such as infrared analyzers, yet are just as reliable,” he said. “The tubes aren’t new, but this use for them apparently is,” said Smilanick, who got the idea while looking through a lab supply catalog. His experiments are described in the current issue of the ARS magazine, *Agricultural Research*.

“To use the tubes,” he said, “you snap off one end, place them in boxes of grapes, then collect and read them after you’ve fumigated the fruit. The silica beads inside the tubes turn yellow when they come in contact with sulfur dioxide.

So instead of reading a column of red or silver on a thermometer, you read a band of yellow.”

“We recommend putting the tubes in the hardest and the easiest places for the fumigant to reach,” said Donald A. Luvisi of the University of California Cooperative Extension Service. Luvisi, Smilanick, and others—including grape growers and university researchers—are working as a team to modernize techniques for fumigating grapes in cold storage. The California Table Grape Commission, a grower-funded organization, sponsored part of the research.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Joseph L. Smilanick, Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Fresno, Calif. 93727. Telephone (209) 453-3084 or Donald A. Luvisi, USDA, University of California Cooperative Extension Service, Bakersfield, Calif. 93307. Telephone (805) 861-2631

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USDA TO RULE ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SQUASH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to exempt The Upjohn Company’s ZW-20 virus-resistant squash from federal restrictions on genetically engineered plants.

Upjohn petitioned USDA to grow its bio-engineered squash without securing further USDA permits. This is the second petition of this type to be submitted. In July, USDA proposed to exempt the Calgene, Inc., “Flavr Savr” tomato.

“After reviewing information submitted by Upjohn, as well as other relevant data, we are proposing to rule that there is no reason for us to regulate the squash any longer,” said Terry Medley, director of biotechnology, biologics and environmental protection for USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The ZW-20 virus-resistant squash was genetically engineered to resist two diseases that affect squash—watermelon mosaic virus 2 and zucchini yellow mosaic virus.

Medley said APHIS officials have the responsibility to assure that no plant pest is introduced or disseminated in releasing a bio-engineered plant. APHIS reviewers focus on the biology, propagation and cultivation of the plant. They examine the source of the engineered genes, the vector used to transfer them and the stability of the insertion.

Upjohn submitted information from numerous field tests of the squash. APHIS reviewers found no plant pest risk associated with conducting the field trials.

Notice of the action will be published in the Sept. 4 Federal Register. Comments will be considered if received on or before Oct. 19. An original and three copies of written comments referring to docket 92-127-1 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, Sept. 3—Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), the coarse count adjustment and the user marketing certificate payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Sept. 4, through midnight Thursday, Sept. 10.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week’s calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 83 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 3.39 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	43.20 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	83
II.	USNE Price	60.50 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-57.11</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	3.39 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week’s calculated AWP will be made. This week’s AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	57.11
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	12.05
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-13.91</u>
Calculated AWP	43.20
Further AWP Adjustment	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	43.20 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	57.11
NE Coarse Count Price	<u>-51.73</u>
	5.38
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	<u>-3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	1.43 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1990, 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.27, 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 2.14 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	Aug. 13, 1992	64.25	60.55	3.70	2.45
2	Aug. 20, 1992	62.45	58.97	3.48	2.23
3	Aug. 27, 1992	62.10	58.10	4.00	2.75
4	Sept. 3, 1992	60.50	57.11	3.39	2.14

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

The next announcement of the AWP, coarse count adjustment and user marketing certificate payment rate will be made on Thursday, Sept. 10.

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USDA WITHDRAWS CATTLE SLAUGHTER INSPECTION PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will withdraw a 988 proposal to streamline cattle slaughter inspection procedures, a USDA official announced today.

Five plants that have been testing the proposed streamlined inspection system (SIS) for cattle will begin phasing out of their pilot status Oct. 1, said Dr. H. Russell Cross, administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

"In the fiscal 1993 appropriations bill, the U.S. Congress eliminated FSIS' funding to continue the pilot tests beyond April 1993; therefore, we are withdrawing the proposal," Cross said.

The pilot testing was an important step toward developing better process control and achieving an inspection program that controls risks, Cross said.

"The National Academy of Sciences and an independent scientific review team said beef products produced in plants operating under streamlined inspection procedures using quality control are of equal safety and quality as those produced under non-streamlined procedures," he said.

Cross said new inspection programs in the future will be developed from recommendations provided to USDA by the National Academy of Sciences, other scientific experts and FSIS field employees who have day-to-day responsibilities for inspection.

FSIS recently encouraged employees and the public to comment on its long-term, strategic plan in a July 29 Federal Register notice, Cross said.

The decision to withdraw the cattle slaughter inspection proposal will appear in the Sept. 4 Federal Register.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service is dedicated to protecting the public by ensuring that meat and poultry products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

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USDA EXTENDS VOTING PERIOD FOR MUSHROOM REFERENDUM

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today the voting period for the mushroom industry referendum has been extended through Sept. 28 because of a printing error.

The referendum had been scheduled for Aug. 24 through Sept. 14 (USDA news release No. 0738-92).

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "USDA is extending the voting period to assure full voter participation in the referendum." A second mailing of ballots has been made to provide persons who may not have received ballots an opportunity to vote

In the referendum, producers and importers will vote on whether the proposed national mushroom promotion, research and consumer information program for fresh mushrooms will go into effect. Persons who from July 1, 1990, through June 30, 1992, annually produced or imported, on average, over 500,000 pounds of mushrooms for fresh use may vote in the referendum.

Those who don't receive ballots, or who need additional information, should contact Richard Schultz, Research and Promotion Branch, Fruit and Vegetable Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2533-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 720-5976.

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture the following activity:

—Export sales of 330,000 metric tons of wheat (250,000 tons of hard red spring, 50,000 hard red winter, and 30,000 tons of soft red winter) for delivery to Egypt during the 1992-93 marketing year; and

—Export sales of 100,000 tons of barley for delivery to Saudi Arabia during 1992-93.

The marketing year for wheat and barley began June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

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EEP, DEIP, SOAP RULES CHANGED TO FACILITATE BARTER TRADE WITH FORMER SOVIETS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4—Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman today announced that to facilitate barter trade the U.S. Department of Agriculture will allow sales to third-country buyers for commodities destined to the former Soviet Union under the Export Enhancement Program, the Dairy Export Incentive Program and the Sunflowerseed Oil Assistance Program.

“We recognize the reality of the trading situation in the former Soviet Union does not fit the traditional structure of EEP, DEIP and SOAP,” said Veneman. “Buyers there are increasingly relying on what we call compensatory forms of trade—barter, countertrade, offset arrangements and escrow accounts.

Under these arrangements, third-country purchasers of goods exported from the former Soviet Union typically also act as a buyer of goods desired for import there.

“Last month, on a trial basis, USDA allowed U.S. exporters to sell wheat under EEP this way,” she said. “It has worked well so we’re expanding it to include all commodities the former Soviet Union is eligible for under EEP, DEIP and SOAP. It is important that we give U.S. farmers and exporters the chance to take part in and benefit from the barter and other non-traditional trade that is taking place.”

This action will provide new opportunities to U.S. exporters who sell wheat, wheat flour, barley, rice, vegetable oil, frozen pork, milk powder and butterfat, Veneman said.

Revised program regulations implementing this change will be issued in the near future. For more information, call Donald W. Street or Mark Rowse, (202) 720-5540.

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USDA PROTECTS 30 NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 30 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants including artichoke, bean, cauliflower, corn, lettuce, pea, rape, rice, annual ryegrass and soybean.

Kenneth H. Evans, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

—the Emerald variety of artichoke, developed by Tom G. Kurupas Farming, El Centro, Calif.;

—the Schooner and Auburn varieties of field bean, developed by the Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;

—the UI 722 and UI 906 varieties of field bean, developed by the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho;

—the Blue Ridge and Pierre varieties of garden bean, developed by the Ferry-Morse Seed Co., San Juan Bautista, Calif.;

—the BBL 110, Calgreen and Minidoka varieties of garden bean, developed by the Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;

—the DMC 04-04, DMC 04-34, DMC 04-59, DMC 04-88, DMC 04-94, DMC 06-01 and DMC 08-52 varieties of garden bean, developed by the Del Monte Corp., San Francisco, Calif.;

—the Minaret variety of cauliflower, developed by Rijk Zwaan B.V. and Meo Voto B.V., De Lier, The Netherlands;

—the 904 variety of corn, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.;

—the Sierra variety of lettuce, developed by Vilmorin S.A., Beaufort en Vallee, France;

- the Reco variety of pea, developed by Nestec S.A., Vevey, Switzerland;
- the Lirabon-00 variety of rape, developed by Cargill Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.;
- the Sumirice II variety of rice, developed by Sumitomo Chemical Co. Ltd., Osaka, Japan;
- the Max variety of annual ryegrass, developed by the Willamette Seed Co., Albany, Ore.;
- the HS 2533 variety of soybean, developed by Growmark Inc., Bloomington, Ill.;
- the S29-39 variety of soybean, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.;
- the CX210 variety of soybean, developed by DeKalb Plant Genetics, DeKalb, Ill.;
- the Hartwig variety of soybean, developed by The Curators of the University of Missouri, Portageville, Mo.;
- the SS 390 variety of soybean, developed by Southern States Cooperative Inc., Richmond, Va.; and
- the 9131 variety of soybean, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Johnston, Iowa.

Five certificates of protection are being issued for varieties to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner. They are Emerald artichoke variety, the UI 722 and UI 906 bean varieties, the Lirabon-00 rape variety and the Hartwig soybean variety.

USDA's AMS administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

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MADIGAN DELIVERS CHECKS FOR HURRICANE CROP DAMAGE

HOMESTEAD, Fla., Sept. 8—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today presented crop insurance claims checks totaling \$2.5 million to eight nursery crop growers in the Homestead area who suffered catastrophic losses from Hurricane Andrew.

Madigan is surveying USDA operations and crop damage today in Florida and Louisiana.

Damage payment checks were presented to other growers by a representative of Rain and Hail Insurance Company, one of the private crop insurance companies reinsured by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

"Like other USDA agencies, FCIC, with its delivery system partners, is responding to President Bush's directive to give prompt attention and speedy help to farmers suffering from Andrew's aftermath," Madigan said. "We understand the utter devastation inflicted on many agricultural producers and the importance of quick response. Crop insurance payments make a big difference to growers who need relief to meet their obligations and reestablish their crops."

In Washington, FCIC Manager James E. Cason said, "Since communications throughout the area are difficult, FCIC and our private insurance partners have taken responsibility to contact every insured grower to determine the crop damage suffered." Insurance companies have assigned extra loss adjustors to work with producers.

FCIC and the companies are making complete and accurate appraisals of losses as quickly as possible, Cason said.

FCIC is a wholly-owned government corporation which oversees and reinsures the delivery of crop insurance through private insurance companies and agents nationwide. Currently 51 crops in over 3,000 counties across the United States are insured by FCIC.

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USDA UPDATE ON BRUCELLOSIS ERADICATION EFFORTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has updated its graph and map illustrating the progress of the brucellosis "Rapid Completion Plan."

Since April, the number of infected cattle herds has decreased from 495 to 436. Additionally, Louisiana has advanced from Class B to Class A brucellosis status, and Indiana and Illinois were upgraded from Class A to Class-free status. The total number of Class-free states is 31.

Brucellosis classification reflects the number of herds that are infected in a state. A state achieves Class-free status when it has been free of infection for 12 consecutive months.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Copies of the map and graph are available from Kendra Pratt, USDA, APHIS, Legislative and Public Affairs, Public Information, Room 613 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

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MILLION FOOD STAMP FRAUD UNCOVERED

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that three Brooklyn, N.Y., businessmen plead guilty today to charges of illegally acquiring and redeeming over \$82 million in food stamps.

USDA's Inspector General Leon Snead said the charges represent the largest food stamp fraud case since the program was established in 1964.

David Garced, 39, chairman; Norbert Garced, 43, treasurer; and Jose Vasque, 36 president, all of Norbert Wholesale Meat Corporation, also known as J&D Meats, Inc., plead guilty in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, according to Snead. David and Norbert Garced plead guilty to felony charges of food stamp fraud while Vasquez, their nephew, plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge of food stamp fraud.

Snead said that in the 1970's the Garceds obtained USDA authorizations to participate in the Food Stamp Program for their wholesale meat company and a small retail grocery store.

In 1982, authorizations for most wholesale firms, including J&D Meats, were withdrawn in an effort to reduce food stamp fraud. Food stamps may only be used by eligible recipients to purchase food at authorized stores. These stores can then only redeem the food stamps at approved banks.

Snead said an anonymous complaint was made to the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) that retail grocery and convenience stores were using food stamps to purchase meat and other items from J&D Meats. The HRA referred the complaint to the Office of Inspector General.

According to Snead, an investigation with the United States Attorney's Office found that the Garceds accepted approximately \$82.2 million in food stamps from retail store owners from 1982 until their wholesale store was raided by OIG special agents in July 1991.

The Garceds redeemed the food stamps at a bank using the authorization of their small retail grocery store, even though that store had been closed as a

retail store since the mid-1980's. During 1990 alone, the Garceds illegally redeemed over \$12.8 million in food stamps, about 2 percent of the food stamps redeemed by all stores in New York City.

Snead said J&D Meats provided a laundering outlet for store owners who had obtained food stamps illegally. The investigation found many of the Garceds' customers were not authorized to accept food stamps from recipients and several were stores which had been disqualified from the Food Stamp Program for violating the program's provisions, included buying food stamps for cash. Snead said the investigation was continuing.

The Garceds each face a potential penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine or both. Vasquez faces a potential penalty of one year imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine. No date for sentencing has been established.

This case is being prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Maloney and Assistant U.S. Attorney Julie Katzman, Eastern District of New York.

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PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR SAUDI ARABIA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 300,000 metric tons of barley for delivery to Saudi Arabia during the 1992-93 marketing year.

The marketing year for barley began June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 p.m. Eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

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COOPERATIVE EFFORT CONTAINS EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE OUTBREAK

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—Quick action by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and North Dakota officials has stopped an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease at a turkey farm in that state.

"Federal and state officials took immediate eradication measures to prevent this highly infectious and deadly disease from spreading in the poultry industry," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of APHIS' veterinary services program.

Johnson said that after the exotic virus was isolated by APHIS' National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, late last week, officials euthanized 26,000 turkeys at a farm near St. Michaels, N.D. Surrounding poultry populations do not appear to be affected by the disease.

"The entire emergency eradication program, including indemnity, cost less than \$220,000," Johnson said. "A widespread epidemic of the disease could cost the poultry industry and consumers millions of dollars."

To ensure the virus would not spread from the affected farm, an emergency crew incinerated the remains of the infected flock, along with all of the crew's disposable clothing and materials, Johnson said. All equipment and housing facilities used in connection with the infected flock were thoroughly disinfected. The facility will remain unoccupied until next season.

Johnson said although the risk of the virus spreading from the farm is virtually eliminated, poultry farmers in the general vicinity of the farm should continue to take precautionary measures to protect their flocks from possible exposure to disease.

Exotic Newcastle disease can affect all species of birds, particularly young birds and birds kept in confinement. Signs of the neurological form of the disease include respiratory distress, listlessness, weakness and eventual paralysis.

APHIS is charged with diagnosing and preventing the spread of diseases such as exotic Newcastle disease. Additional information about the disease and biosecurity measures for preventing the disease can be requested from USDA-APHIS, LPA-Public Information, Room 613 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

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USDA PROPOSES TO AMEND PLANT QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing formal, written agreements with states outlining state and federal responsibilities in administering post-entry quarantines for certain imported plants.

“The agreements would standardize involvement in inspection and monitoring activities, which currently vary by state,” said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for plant protection and quarantine with USDA’s animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “The proposal would also involve state agriculture departments in USDA’s import permit review process to ensure that the number or size of shipments allowed entry would not place an unmanageable burden on state inspectors,” he said.

“Post-entry quarantines protect the health of U.S. agriculture by allowing enough time for manifestation of diseases that are not visible or identifiable on plants at the time of entry,” said Lee. “These quarantines are a shared federal-state responsibility, and the proposed agreements would clarify each party’s proper role in this cooperative endeavor.”

Under the proposal, articles required to be grown in post-entry quarantine could be imported only into those states that have signed the agreement.

The proposal also would prohibit importers from propagating articles grown in post-entry quarantine or moving them from the quarantine site without the written permission of an inspector.

The proposal is scheduled for publication in the Sept. 8 Federal Register. Comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Nov. 9. An original and three copies of written comments referring to Docket 91-033-1 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.34 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 8.46 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.45 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.67 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

- for long grain, \$0.87 per hundredweight;
- for medium grain, \$0.81 per hundredweight;
- for short grain, \$0.81 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 12:00:01 A.M. EDT until 12:00:00 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 15. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Sept. 15 at 7 a.m. EDT. The price announced at that time will be effective from 12:00:01 a.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 15.

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MEAT AND POULTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO MEET SEPT. 22-23 IN VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9—The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection will meet Sept. 22-23, 1992 at the Holiday Inn, 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, Va.

The committee, chaired by Dr. H. Russell Cross, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, advises and makes recommendations to the secretary of agriculture on meat and poultry inspection issues.

The meeting will include discussions on microbiological monitoring of cattle, risk analysis, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the

Performance- Based Inspection System, the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point initiative and the development of defect criteria for boneless meat inspection.

Committee members include: Amy Barr, Good Housekeeping, New York, N.Y.; Dr. Wesley B. Bonner, Veribest Cattle Feeders, Inc., Veribest, Texas; Dr. Claude W. Carraway, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N.C.; Dr. James H. Denton, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark.; Stanley J. Emerling, National Association of Meat Purveyors, Reston, Va.; Lou L. Gast, Inspection and Management Resources, Gaithersburg, Md.

Also, Mark A. Gustafson, U.S. Meat Exporters Federation, Denver, Colo.; James H. Hodges, American Meat Institute, Arlington, Va.; Dr. Thomas Hoe, Wampler-Longacre, Inc., Franconia, Pa.; Dr. Curtis L. Kastner, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kans.; Dr. Winston H. Marshall, H&M Foods Corp., North Richland Hills, Texas; Dr. Fred Shank, Food and Drug Administration, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Gary C. Smith, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colo.; Edgar C. Staren, Starmill, Inc., Oak Brook, Ill.; and Larry K. Winslow, Perdue Farms, Inc., Salisbury, Md.

Meetings are open to the public on a space available basis. Comments may be filed prior to and following the meeting and should be addressed to Bill Dennis, Assistant to the Administrator, USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 3175, So. Bldg., 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250.

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SCIENTIFIC PANEL TO ASSESS NORTHWEST FOREST HEALTH PROBLEMS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9—A multi-disciplinary panel of scientists will investigate forest health problems now threatening long-term sustainability of resources in national forests in eastern Washington and eastern Oregon, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture official.

“Three million acres of federal, state, private and Native American tribal lands in the Pacific Northwest have suffered a variety of forest health problems brought on by drought, insects and disease,” said John Beuter, USDA’s acting assistant for natural resources and environment.

“To compliment ongoing research into the problems, we’ve appointed a panel of scientists drawn from Pacific Northwest universities, state and federal agencies and private groups,” Beuter said.

The panel will examine past management of forests in the area; make recommendations for future practices designed to improve forest health; target areas where more research is needed to sustain healthy forests; and define ways to apply this knowledge in the future.

The panel’s findings and recommendations will be presented to the Pacific Northwest regional forester, the secretary of agriculture and members of Congress for consideration and implementation on or before April 1, 1993.

Dr. Richard Everett, Pacific Northwest Research Station, USDA, Forest Service, will lead the panel.

The other panel members are: Jim Agee and Chad Oliver, University of Washington; Dave Baumgartner, Washington State University; Boon Kaufmann and William Kruger, Oregon State University; Wayne Elmore, Bureau of Land Management; Ken Russel, Washington Department of Natural Resources; Eric Hansen, Yakima Indian Nation; Patric Bourgeron, The Nature Conservancy; Hiram Lee, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Forest Service resource scientists Paul Hessburg, Pacific Northwest Region, and Mark Jensen, Northern Region.

The panelists will join scientists from the Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Research Station which includes: Boyd Wickman, LaGrande, Ore.; Russ Mitchel and Pat Cochran at Bend, Ore.; Bernard Bormann and Martha Brookes, Corvallis, Oreg.

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